



BOROUGH OF WREXHAM.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937.

T. P. EDWARDS.

M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Lond.).



To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health and Vital Statistics for the Borough of Wrexham for the year 1937.

The population of the Borough has increased by 270, and there has been an increase in the birth rate, but also an increase in the death rate. The number of deaths of infants under one year of age, though identical with the number for 1936, indicates a reduction in the Infantile Mortality Rate, owing to the increase in the number of births.

The most important feature of the year was the continued incidence of Infectious Disease, especially Diphtheria, which led to a great deal of discussion, and in this connection a large number of Immunisations were performed, and arrangements were being made at the end of the year for a second Campaign of Immunisations, seeing that the previous Campaign, which was completed in January, 1937, did not deal with as many cases as one would have wished.

The completion of the Slum Clearance and the commencement of the systematic abatement of overcrowding was prevented owing to the lack of suitable Housing accommodation.

Towards the end of the year discussions arose in reference to the remodernising of the Sewerage system of the Northerly part of the Borough, and at the same time steps were taken in reference to the extension of the treatment facilities at the Sewage Farm at Marchwiell.

The question of the appointment of Whole-time District Medical Officers of Health was discussed during the year, with reference to the proposals submitted by the County Council, though these will not come into effect until the present occupant ceases his present appointments.

During the year it was with regret that the previous Town Clerk retired under Superannuation. He was succeeded by Mr. Philip Walters.

During the year two changes took place in the personnel of the Health Staff, namely, the resignation of Mr. Bates, Senior Sanitary Inspector, who was succeeded by Mr. Stroud, and the transfer of Miss Kirby to the Town Clerk's Department, and she was succeeded by Miss Probert, as Clerk to the Health Department.

Towards the end of the year evidence was being prepared for the Committee of Enquiry, as set up by the Minister of Health in reference to Tuberculosis in Wales.

During the year the following special Reports were submitted to the Council :—

- (1) Report on the Royal Sanitary Institute Congress at Birmingham.
- (2) Report on Diphtheria Prophylaxis in reference to the Campaign of Immunisations.
- (3) Report by the Senior Sanitary Inspector on the work done at the Abattoir.
- (4) Report on Food Poisoning due to Butter Crisps.
- (5) Report by the Sanitary Inspector on the Sanitary Inspectors' Conference at Brighton.

One new procedure will be noticed in this Report, and that is, the Sanitary Inspector has made a Special Report of the work concerning his Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. P. EDWARDS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare,
Medical Superintendent of the Fever Hospital.*

T. P. EDWARDS, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Cantab.)

*Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, and Medical Officer
to Ante Natal Clinic.*

KATHARINE R. DRINKWATER, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary and Housing Inspector and Superintendent of Abattoir.

WM. H. BATES, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I. (to Oct.)

L. A. STROUD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (from Dec.)

Sanitary Inspector - - J. C. WILKES, Cert.R.S.I.

} Meat Inspector's
Certificate R.S.I.

Health Visitor - - MRS. H. MOORE.

H.V. & School Nurse - - NURSE M. LLOYD JONES.

Clerk to the Borough Health Department.

Miss M. KIRBY (to May).

Miss B. PROBERT (from April).

Matron of the Fever Hospital.

Miss H. M. DAVIES.

Health Committee.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN CYRIL O. JONES, B.A.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. PRICE, J.P.

Members :

ALDERMAN DODMAN.	COUNCILLOR HACKETT.
„ JARMAN.	„ MORRIS.
„ THOMAS.	„ CATHERINE JONES.
„ EMYR WILLIAMS.	„ GARNER JONES.
COUNCILLOR BREESE.	„ OGDEN.
„ CHALLONER.	„ STABLER.
„ HICKMAN.	„ TAYLOR.
	„ ED. WILLIAMS.
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR DUTTON).	

Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN CYRIL O. JONES, B.A.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. PRICE, J.P.

Members :

MRS. CYRIL O. JONES.	MRS. GRIFFITHS.
MRS. AFFLECK.	MRS. JONES.
MRS. BELLIS.	MRS. GARNER JONES.
MRS. FOULKES.	MRS. PICKEN.
MRS. EMYR WILLIAMS.	

Town Clerk : MR. LAWSON TAYLOR (to May).

MR. PHILIP J. WALTERS (commenced July).

Engineer & Surveyor : MR. JOHN ENGLAND.

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	2,916
Population (mid. 1937) (Registrar General's estimation)	25,470
Number of inhabited houses, 1937	6,643
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 census	4,483
Rateable Value (April 1st, 1937)	£154,527
Sum represented by a penny rate	£589/2/2
Corporation Houses	1,528

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Population .. 25,470 (Mid. 1937).
(Registrar General's Estimate).

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births Legitimate	189	182	371
Live Births Illegitimate	8	10	18
TOTAL	197	192	389

Birth Rate	15.2	England and Wales	14.9
<i>Stillbirths—</i>			
Legitimate Male ..	13	Female ..	6
Illegitimate Male ..	—	Female ..	—
	Total ..	Total ..	6
	13		19
Rate of Stillbirths per 1,000 population—	0.74	England and Wales	0.60
Rate of Stillbirths per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	46.5
<i>Deaths—</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	201	158	359
Death Rate	14.09	Adjusted Death Rate	15.2
Comparability Factor	1.08	England and Wales	12.4

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :—

1. From Sepsis
2. From other causes

Total

Maternal Mortality Rate :—

	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.		Rate per 1,000 live births.	
	Wrexham.	Eng. & Wales.	Wrexham.	Eng. & Wales.
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.94	—	0.97
Other causes	—	2.17	—	2.26
Total	—	3.11	—	3.23

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	14	13	27
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	15	13	28

Infantile Mortality Rate :—

Legitimate	..	72.7	
Illegitimate	..	55.5	
<hr/>			
Total	..	71.9	(England & Wales .. 58).
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough			
(all ages)	.. .. .	2	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under			
2 years of age)	.. ..	3	

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is very little I need say in reference to the Social conditions other than what has already been stated in previous Annual Reports. It will be noted that the population of the Borough has increased by 270 during the year, and one of the most important factors to be mentioned is the increase in the provision of Houses by private enterprise in the Easterly, and especially the Northerly part of the Borough. At the present moment extensive Housing developments are taking place at Croes Eneury in the Wat's Dyke Ward, and in time these Houses will be linked to the Houses now in existence in the Rhosddu area.

At the same time Houses are being built at the present moment, by the Council, in order to complete our programme of Slum Clearance, and at the same time to make alternative accommodation for the abatement of overcrowding.

At the present moment these Houses are being built in the Whitegate Estate in the Caia Ward, though steps are being taken for the compulsory purchase of another Estate, namely, the Hermitage, for Housing developments, and in this connection a Government Enquiry was held during the year and the results of this Enquiry supported the application of the Borough for this purchase. The necessary legal formalities in respect to this purchase have not yet been completed, and when they are, this will afford room for additional Houses.

At the present moment we are engaged in completing our programme of Slum Clearance and discussions have arisen in reference to the necessity of supplying new Houses in the Western part of the Borough, and not congregate all the displaced persons in the Eastern part as has been the policy of the Council up to the present.

As regards Industries, there appears to be very little change as compared with former years, and one may state that the chief Industries carried on in the Borough are, Breweries, Leather Works, Dairying Industry, Iron Foundry, and to a certain extent, Agriculture. One must also mention the Brick Works at King's Mills which were transferred to the Borough in 1935, following the Borough extensions.

One must also keep in mind the important Market, including the Cattle Market and Horse Fairs.

In addition to these Industries, Wrexham contains a large number of Shops which cater for a large population, estimated at 80,000 within 5 miles of the boundaries.

Since writing the above I have had the following information supplied by the Official of the Local Unemployment Exchange. In December, 1936, the percentage of Unemployment in the Wrexham District was 24.7%, but in December, 1937, this had dropped to 19.8%, or a reduction of 4.9%. It has to be borne in mind that these figures apply to the Wrexham District which includes the Borough of Wrexham and also the neighbouring Districts in the Rural District Council, and these latter localities would dilute or concentrate any figures referable to the Borough alone. It is impossible to obtain figures for the Borough itself, and these are the nearest I can obtain.

The Borough is an important residential area, giving accommodation to families, members of whom are engaged in various Industries outside the Borough, especially in the various Coal Mines, Chemical Works and Brick Yards, and one can state most definitely that during the last 6 or 7 years there has been a definite improvement in the Housing Conditions of the Borough and these would have been still further improved had alternative Houses been built, though one must not forget the fact that the chief obstacle in the provision of the Houses was the lack of suitable sites.

In reference to Nutrition there is definite evidence that there is a substantial amount of Sub-normal nutrition in the Borough, and this has been dealt with in many ways. Under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, provision is made for free milk to expectant mothers, and also for children up to the age of 5, and this receives continual attention at the Monthly Meetings of the Committee. At the same time, other forms of Nutrition are also given at the Centre in reference to Vitamin preparations for expectant Mothers and Cod Liver Oil, and other Vitamin-containing articles, to children requiring such. The state of Nutrition of the School comes under the purview of the School Medical Service and one need only mention here that a large number of children avail themselves of the daily milk ration in the Schools, and that approximately 700 children are receiving this gratuitously. In addition to this, the free meal centre has been developed and brought more up to date, and subsidiary centres have also been opened in the Schools, which are situated at the Northerly boundry of the Borough and approximately 300 children are receiving the benefit of free meals, and there is abundant proof of substantial improvement in their nutrition.

The Minister of Health has asked us to report on the particulars of any unusual or excessive Mortality during the year, and the only circumstance in this connection that I wish to refer to is the large increase in the number of cases of Diphtheria which rose from 6 to 15. It will be discussed later on in this Report that though the number of cases of Diphtheria decreased by 4, the number of deaths have increased by 9. This has received attention at the various Committees during the year, and it must be borne in mind that there was a substantial number of cases admitted to the Hospital suffering from a most severe type of Diphtheria, and unfortunately quite a number of these died within a few hours after admission. In some instances this state of affairs could only be put down to the neglect of the parents in obtaining early Medical advice, though in at least one case, delay on the part of the Medical Practitioner in admitting the case to the Hospital, was attended by serious results. It appears that in the case of a younger Practitioner, recently qualified, taking a temporary appointment as an Assistant, too much stress is laid by them as to the result of a Swab. This question will be discussed fuller when I deal with Diphtheria.

There is no statistical evidence to indicate that Unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults, unless one can accept the large amount of money spent by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, in providing free milk for children under 5 years of age.

Another piece of evidence in this connection can be supplied by the number of children who received free treatment for Orthopaedic defects, and also for Tonsils and Adenoids.

At the same time, one cannot overlook the fact, which is obvious to everybody, that there is a definite amount of sub-normal nutrition in the Borough, and this is indicated during our investigations into the cause of infectious disease, when it is noted that in a very substantial proportion of such cases, practically no fresh milk is purchased in a House, and in these cases the only fresh milk consumed is that supplied by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee or the School Medical Service.

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 389 live births of which 197 were males and 192 females. Of these births 371 were legitimate, and 18 illegitimate, and of the legitimate births, 189 were

males and 182 females, whereas, of the 18 illegitimate there were 8 males and 10 females. The total number of live births has increased during the year by 18, the legitimate births increasing by 15, and illegitimate by 3.

BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate for the year is 15.2 which is an increase of .8 on the number for 1936, namely, 14.4, and is over the average of the whole of England and Wales, namely, 14.9. The Birth Rate for the previous years and for 1937 was as follows :—

1928	..	15.1	1933	..	15.0
1929	..	15.2	1934	..	15.0
1930	..	14.6	1935	..	14.8
1931	..	15.2	1936	..	14.4
1932	..	13.9	1937	..	15.2

STILLBIRTHS.

During the year there were 19 stillbirths, an increase of 5 over the figures for 1936, and all of these were in respect of legitimate Stillbirths. Of these cases 13 were males and 6 females.

STILLBIRTH RATES.

The rate of Stillbirths per thousand population was 0.74 as compared with 0.55 for 1936, and 0.6 for England and Wales. The rate of stillbirths per thousand total (live and still) births is 46.5.

DEATHS.

During the year the total number of deaths registered as having occurred in the Borough was 587. From this number 245 persons who were non-residents, must be deducted, but 17 Borough residents, who died outside the Borough, have to be added on. This makes a total number of deaths in respect to Borough residents, of 359 as against 350 for 1936. Of the 17 Borough residents, who died outside the Borough, 10 occurred in Institutions. It is of interest to note that the number of deaths is 30 less than the number of births, as against 21 for 1936.

DEATH RATE.

Taking the figure of 359 as representing the actual number of deaths, this gives a crude death rate of 14.09 as against 13.8 for 1936. The Registrar General has supplied us with a comparability figure, namely 1.08, in order that the actual number of deaths may be adjusted according to difference in age and sex incidence, so that it can be used for comparative purposes. Taking this factor into consideration, the adjusted death rate reaches a figure of 15.2 and the death rate for the whole of England and Wales is 12.4.

The death rate for the previous years, and the year 1937, is as follows :—

1928	..	12.9	1933	..	12.9
1929	..	12.7	1934	..	12.66
1930	..	12.7	1935	..	13.9
1931	..	11.9	1936	..	14.9
1932	..	12.5	1937	..	15.2

The following table gives the causes of death :—

CAUSES.						Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	
1.—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
2.—Measles	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	..	1
3.—Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	..	1
4.—Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
5.—Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	11	4	..	15
5.—Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	6	5	..	11
7.—Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	..	1
8.—Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
9.—Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	13	8	..	21
10.—Other Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3
11.—Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
12.—General paralysis of the insane, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
13.—Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	18	19	..	37
14.—Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	6
15.—Cerebral Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	..	14	16	..	30
16.—Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	43	35	..	78
17.—Aneurysm	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
18.—Other circulatory	..	..	..	..	..	7	9	..	16
19.—Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	..	10
20.—Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	15	9	..	24
21.—Other respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
22.—Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	..	1
23.—Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	3
24.—Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
25.—Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	..	..	—	2	..	2
26.—Other liver diseases	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
27.—Other digestive	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	..	7
28.—Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	10	5	..	15
29.—Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
30.—Other puerperal	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
31.—Congenital causes, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	10	7	..	17
32.—Senility	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
33.—Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
34.—Other violence	..	..	..	..	..	9	7	..	16
35.—Other defined causes	..	..	..	..	..	17	10	..	27
36.—Ill-defined causes	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	..	7
All causes.	Total	..	..	..	..	201	158	..	359

Special Causes included in No. 35 above are :—

Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
Polio-Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—
Diarrhoea—2 years and over	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	..	—

It is of interest to make a few remarks in reference to the comparison of the figures for 1937 with those for 1936. I have already mentioned the fact that the Diphtheria deaths have increased from 6 to 15, but it is of interest to note that of these 15, 11 were males. The influenza deaths have increased from 1 to 11, 6 being males and 5 females. In respect to Tuberculosis, the total number of deaths, namely, 24, is the same as that for last year, the figures being identical for Respiratory Tuberculosis and other Tuberculosis, though there is a slight difference in the

sex incidence. As regards Cancer, the deaths have diminished by 15 to 37, and this diminution affects both sexes, but the male sex to a greater extent than the female. The causes of these Cancer deaths are given in the Table under Cancer. There is very little one need say in reference to the other items except the fact that puerperal causes show a diminution, and it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths of mothers in or following confinement.

CANCER.

During the year there were 37 deaths, 18 males and 19 females. The number for the previous year was 52, thus there has been a decrease of 15 cases. The ratio of Cancer deaths to total deaths is 1:9.7 and the Cancer death rate per thousand population is 1.4 as compared with 2.6 for 1936. The localities of these Cancer deaths is given in the table below :—

							Males.		Females.		TOTAL.
Tonsil	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	—	..	1
Pharynx and Larynx	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	3
Oesophagus	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3
Stomach and Pylorus	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	5	..	11
Colon	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	3	..	3
Liver and Gall Bladder	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	2	..	2
Pancreas	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	1	..	1
Cerebral	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	—	..	2
Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	—	..	2
Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	2	..	2
Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	1	..	1
Sarcoma	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	19	..	37

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year of age was 28, which is the same figure as that for 1936. 27 of these cases were legitimate births, and one illegitimate. 15 were males of which 14 were legitimate, and 13 females all being legitimate. Of the 28 cases, 17 were due to congenital causes, 10 being males and 7 females, and of the total number of deaths, 18 were neonatal.

In respect to the number of deaths of diarrhoea, under two years of age, there were 3 cases, 2 males and 1 female, whereas in 1936 there were 2 such deaths. The Diarrhoea death rate per thousand live births, was 7.7 as against 5.8 for England and Wales and 5.3 for Wrexham in 1936.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

The Infantile Mortality rate for the year reached a figure of 71.9 as against 75.4 for 1936. The reduction in the rate is due to the increase in the births, seeing that the actual number of deaths was identical for the two years. The rate for England and Wales was 58, thus our rate is above that for the whole of England and Wales. The legitimate infantile mortality rate was 72.7 per thousand legitimate births, as against 61.7 for 1936, and the illegitimate infantile mortality rate was 55.5 as compared with 400.0 for 1936. It will be noticed that the Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales has fallen by 1.0, whereas our Infantile Mortality Rate has diminished by 3.5.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been no death from puerperal causes during the year. The rates of the Country are given in the following table.

					<i>Puerperal sepsis.</i>	<i>Others.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Wrexham Borough.							
Per 1,000 live births	—	—	—
Per 1,000 total births	—	—	—

England and Wales.

Per 1,000 live births ..	..	..	..	..	0.97	2.26	3.23
Per 1,000 total births ..	..	..	..	..	0.94	2.17	3.11

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The table below indicates that there have been 303 total cases notified as against 385 for 1936. Of these cases 177 were Diphtheria cases, though it would be noticed that 181 cases were admitted to Hospital. It has to be borne in mind that a few cases are admitted occasionally as Diphtheria and are turned out not to be Diphtheria, and this will explain the discrepancy of the number of cases admitted to Hospital being in excess of the total notified cases, seeing that no case of Diphtheria was not notified during the year. It will be noticed that there has been a substantial reduction in Scarlet Fever Cases, and those admitted to Hospital, and that there is an increase in the number of cases of pneumonia.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	177	181	15
Scarlet Fever	49	41	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	3	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	5	—
Pneumonia	56	—	24
<i>(Other diseases specially notifiable)</i>			
Erysipelas	10	4	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	303	233	40

Fever Hospital Statement for 1937.

(CIVILIANS ONLY).

	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Diphtheria.</i>	<i>Others.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Remaining in Hospital, December, 1936 ..	6	12	—	18
Admitted during the year 1937 ..	41	181	4	226
Discharged during year 1937 ..	41	168	2	211
Remaining in Hospital, December, 1937 ..	6	11	1	18
Deaths in Hospital during the year 1937 ..	—	14	1	15
Death percentage on Admission ..	—	7.7	25	6.6
Death percentage on Total Cases in Hospital ..	—	7.2	25	6.1

Tuberculosis Cases notified during the Year.**Arranged according to age.**

These Notifications refer solely to those notified previous to death, and refer solely to patients resident in the Borough.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
20—25	3	4	—	—	2	—	—	1
25—35	3	2	—	1	—	4	—	1
35—45	1	3	—	—	5	1	—	—
45—55	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	3	—	1	—	4	—	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	13	15	7	5	13	8	1	2
	28		12=40		21		3=24	

The above Table refers to all the deaths from Tuberculosis and indicates that the number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year is identical with that of the previous year. The number of deaths that occurred not notified before death, was 10, so that the ratio of non-notified deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths is 10:24. The Ward incidence of notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis will be seen in the Statistical summary at the end of this Report.

Towards the end of the year evidence was prepared by the Borough in reference to the Enquiry on Tuberculosis held in the early part of 1938 under the Presidentship of Mr. Clement Davies, K.C. This evidence was prepared in conjunction with the Welsh Non-County Boroughs Association, and the Borough of Wrexham was asked to give evidence in support of this Memorandum, in conjunction with the Medical Officers of Health of Colwyn Bay, Llanelli and Neath. The evidence given on behalf of Wrexham indicated that the Borough were doing all in their power to deal with the question of Tuberculosis, and emphasis was made on the progress made in the provision of Houses for the working classes, and also the removal of unfit houses, and steps taken for the abatement of overcrowding.

Other matters also dealt with in the evidence included Meat Inspection, the provision of clean milk, the provision of milk and meals to children in the Schools, and the provision of milk under the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, and the progress made by the Antenatal Clinic. At the same time, evidence was also given in reference to notification and disinfection of Houses, Health Education and the Public Health Staff employed by the Corporation. Certain representations were made in reference to the difficult question of aftercare, and a representation was made, asking the Government to consider seriously the provision of a grant towards the construction of Houses for Tuberculosis patients. At the present moment, as the Enquiry has not been completed, the whole question of Tuberculosis in Wales, with special reference to the relations of the Local Authorities to the Welsh National Memorial Association, is sub judice, and no doubt everyone in Wales will be looking forward, with interest, to the Report of the Commissioners appointed by the Minister of Health.

Table showing Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	CASES.			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home	In Hospital.				
	3	2	1	3	—	—	—

As necessity has not arisen, no action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1935, in reference to the prevention of Blindness. It has to be remembered however, that a certain proportion of the work of the Health Visitor is in reference to Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum when they arise, especially so amongst the poorer children.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the year was 177, as against 181 in the previous year, this being a reduction of 4 cases.

According to the Fever Hospital Statement for the year 1937, 181 cases were admitted, but it has to be borne in mind, as has already been stated, that a few cases do not turn out to be Diphtheria after admission. The case rate per thousand population is 6.9, as against 7.1 for 1936. Whereas the notification rate per thousand population for England and Wales was 1.49. Of the 181 cases admitted there were 15 deaths, or an increase of 9 during the year, and this indicates that the death rate per thousand population was 0.58 as compared with 0.23 in 1936, and compared with 0.07 for England and Wales. The percentage of deaths was 7.7 as against 3.48 for 1936.

The Ward distribution of the cases is as follows :—

G.	E.	F.	C.	M.	B.	O.	A.	W.D.	Total.
14	16	15	14	61	21	10	15	11	177

The above figures give food for consideration, and indicate that the position of the Borough in respect to Diphtheria during the year was far from satisfactory, even though a vigorous campaign of Immunisations was dealt with in the last 3 months of 1936, and completed in the early weeks of 1937. One need hardly state that this question received adequate attention by a discussion in the various Health Committees, and towards the end of the year a Special Sub-Committee was formed to discuss this question and the deliberations of this Committee took place in 1938, and we had the honour and pleasure of having Dr. Wade at one of the meetings.

When one considers carefully the Ward Distribution it will be noticed that with the exception of the Maesydre Ward, the cases were fairly evenly distributed throughout the Borough, with a minimum incidence in the Offa and Wat's Dyke Ward, but it is satisfactory to note that even in such an important Ward as Maesydre, which is large in extent and contains a large number of residential properties, the greater majority of which are owned by the Council, there has been a reduction of 25 in the cases of Diphtheria.

Another substantial reduction has occurred in the Grosvenor Ward, but in this connection one has to take into account the fact that the War Memorial Hospital is situated in this Ward, and that this decrease is explained to a great extent, by the diminution in the number of cases from this Voluntary Hospital.

It will be noticed that there have been 15 deaths, and it must be borne in mind that at intervals during the year, and especially during the last 3 months, there were epidemics of a most virulent type of infection, and even some of the patients who recovered, were on admission to Hospital in a very serious condition.

During the discussions a large number of theories were mentioned, some of which could not stand the test of scientific basis, and it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the chief cause of the spread of infection is personal contact either at home or in the Schools, or in various gatherings religious and otherwise, and one must not forget the effect of modern transport in aiding the spread of infection such as could be instanced by the overcrowding conditions of the buses during certain peak periods.

Another aspect of the question that has received consideration was the necessity of a longer stay in Hospital of cases of Diphtheria, but it has to be remembered that at certain times the accommodation at the Fever Hospital is fully occupied and it is difficult to arrange additional stay in Hospital unless one had a very much larger Institution and up to the present time, the Institution has been able to cope satisfactorily with all its calls, in reference to infectious diseases, including Diphtheria.

The matter of the prolonged stay in Hospital is complicated by the necessity of finding accommodation for new cases in times of epidemics and especially so when certain of these cases are in an extremely acute condition on admission.

The situation would be helped materially if the suggestion of a Convalescent Home for the later stages of Diphtheria, could be settled, and this has received consideration at the Meetings of the Joint Fever Hospital Committee, on which are representatives of the Borough, and undoubtedly in the event of a new Hospital being constructed within the next few years, this aspect of treatment will no doubt receive serious consideration.

Of the 177 cases, 109 were children of School age, and of these, 67 were males and 42 females, and the greatest incidence of cases from the Schools occurred in the Non-Provided Schools, though there was a substantial number of cases from the Alexandra Schools.

The question of Diphtheria in reference to the Schools was fully discussed in the School Medical Report for 1937, but it is of interest to note that of the 109 cases, 32 of them were children of 12 and 13 years of age, and there were a large number of cases at ages, 7, 9 and 10.

One rather interesting circumstance that has been referred to in the School Medical Report was the fact that during the end of the year 3 or 4 cases were admitted who had been immunised the previous year, and all of them made an uninterrupted recovery, though at least one of these children was very severely infected on admission to Hospital, and I feel certain that the fact that these children had been immunised previously made the treatment at the Hospital more successful than it would have been had they not been immunised.

During the discussions of the Sub-Committee, and also at the Health Committees, emphasis was laid on the relation of malnutrition to the incidence of Diphtheria, especially from the point of view of a lowered resistance to infection, and in this connection it must be pointed out that some 700 children, attending School, are receiving the benefit of free milk, and that 291 are receiving extra nourishment in the shape of free meals.

As I am preparing this Report in 1938, I wish to point out the fact that since the close of 1937, there has been a very definite reduction in the number of cases of Diphtheria, and this will be discussed in fuller detail in my next report.

IMMUNISATIONS.

At the commencement of the year I completed one campaign in the Schools which was commenced during the previous year.

During the year the following cases were dealt with :—

Schick Test.

Positive	..	..	12
Negative	..	..	6

Retest.

Positive	..	..	Nil.
Negative	..	..	1

Immunisations.

Completed from previous year	14
Completed during the year ..	50
Incompleted at the end of the year	5

It is satisfactory to note that a substantial number of these immunised children were under School age, and one cannot emphasise too strongly the need to immunise children between the ages of 1 and 5, and this has been brought to the attention of the Health Committee during the discussions.

Arrangements are in force whereby all swabs of susceptible cases and contacts, are examined at the Fever Hospital, and during the year 359 Swabs of Borough cases were examined, of these, 43 were positive, and 316 negative.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified in 1937 was 47, compared with 144 in 1936, thus showing a decrease of 97 cases. 41 cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital as against 114 in 1936. There was one death from Scarlet Fever, but this did not occur in the Fever Hospital. The case rate per thousand population is 1.7 as compared with 5.7 for 1936, and 2.33 for England and Wales.

The one death brings the death rate per thousand population to 0.03, as compared with 0.01 for England and Wales. This reduction in the number of cases is very satisfactory, and taken as a whole the cases were extremely mild in their character.

The Ward distribution is as follows :—

G.	E.	F.	C.	M.	B.	O.	A.	W.D.	Total.
13	2	7	2	9	9	—	3	2	.. 47

It will be noticed that there has been a very substantial reduction in the cases from the Maesydre Ward, only 9 cases being notified as against 38 in the previous year. In the Acton Ward only 3 cases, as compared with 23, and in the Wat's Dyke Ward 2 cases, as compared with 18.

It will also be noticed that the diminution in the number of cases is general throughout the Borough, and effects every Ward.

PNEUMONIA.

56 cases of Pneumonia were notified as against 37 in 1936, thus there has been an increase of 19. The case rate per thousand population is 2.1 as compared with 1.36 for England and Wales, and 1.4 in 1936. There were 24 deaths from all forms of Pneumonia during the year, as compared with 25 in 1936, and the death rate per thousand population is 0.9 which is identical to that for 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS.

40 cases of Tuberculosis were notified previous to death, as compared with 56 in 1936, but there are still a number of cases which are not notified by the General Practitioners, the number being 10. In each of these cases the Medical Practitioner is written to, to ask for reasons why the cases were not notified previous to death, and there is undoubtedly room for improvement in the method of notification. Of the 40 cases, 28 were Pulmonary, including 13 Males and 15 Females, and 12 Non-Pulmonary, 7 being Males and 5 Females.

The Ward Distribution is as follows :—

G.	E.	F.	C.	M.	B.	O.	A.	WD.	Total.
2	3	4	2	12	7	4	5	1 ..	40

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

During the year no employee in the milk trade was notified to us as suffering from Tuberculosis and it has not been necessary for us to take any action under these Regulations.

ANTHRAX AND RABIES.

There have been no cases of locally contracted Anthrax in spite of an important skin industry in Wrexham, nor has there been a case of Rabies.

SMALLPOX.

No case of this disease occurred in the Borough. With regard to the treatment and isolation of Smallpox patients it is satisfactory to note that the County Council of Denbigh have constructed a Smallpox Hospital at Rhydtalog which is now available when necessity arises, but up to the present it has not been found necessary to make use of this building. The case rate per thousand of the population of England and Wales is 0.0.

There have been no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations under the Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917.

The following figures have been kindly supplied by the Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee, and include the Rural District :—

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Total Births	1480	1381	1345	1344	1246	1412	1356
Successfully Vaccinated	325	270	208	259	229	247	235
Insusceptible	3	6	1	4	3	Nil.	—
No. had Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conscientious Objections	923	919	875	897	946	945	920
	(62.5%)	(66.3%)	(65.05%)	(66.7%)	(72.7%)	(66.9%)	(67.8%)
Died unvaccinated ..	83	62	55	61	52	79	62
Postponed by Medical Certificate ..	63	51	12	40	23	39	37
Removed	10	53	10	67	52	76	85
Unaccounted for ..	71	24	184	16	41	26	17

ENTERIC FEVER.

There were 3 notifications of Enteric Fever during the year, 1 being Paratyphoid Fever, and 2 Typhoid. The Paratyphoid Fever case was that of a young man who had only just returned from a tour in Germany. Of the two Typhoid cases, one was a young man from the War Memorial Hospital who came from Caergwrle, and this is not the first time that we have such cases ad-

mitted to the Fever Hospital, from the War Memorial Hospital, from that area. The second Typhoid case was in reference to a young man who held a responsible clerical position in the Water Works Office, and though we have been unable to trace the source of infection, it is in all probability due to a recent visit to Rhyl. Unfortunately, this case was complicated by other Non-Typhoid complications, and up to the present, he has not resumed his duties.

The case rate per thousand population is 0.11 as against 0.05 for England and Wales. It is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths.

PUERPERAL NOTIFICATIONS

During the year the system of notification of Puerperal cases was substantially altered in that Puerperal Fever is no longer regarded as a notifiable disease of its own, and instructions of the Minister of Health are that any cases should be classified and notified as Puerperal Pyrexia.

This explains the fact that only one case of Puerperal Fever was reported during the year, and it must be remembered that notifications of Puerperal Fever, as such, relate to the first 39 weeks of the year only.

Throughout the year there were 6 notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia and one of Puerperal Fever. The notification rate per thousand total births of all Puerperal Notifications is 17.9, the notification rate for Puerperal Fever being 2.5 and that of Puerperal Pyrexia, 15.4 per thousand total births. The total Puerperal Notifications for England and Wales make up a rate of 13.93 per thousand total births.

VERMINOUS PERSONS.

There have been no cases of Verminous Persons requiring cleansing with the exception of an occasional child treated by the School Medical Service. 672 houses have been disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year. Arranged according to age.

DISEASES.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	2	7	6	19	50	49	16	16	7	3	—	177
Scarlet Fever	1	—	3	3	3	18	4	7	5	3	—	—	47
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	3
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia	6	—	—	3	1	5	1	4	13	7	12	4	56
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	3	1	10
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	2	10	12	23	73	54	30	45	19	19	5	301

Summary of Nursing Arrangements.

Hospital and other Institutions available for the District.

(a) GENERAL. There are two Voluntary Nursing Associations in the Borough providing nurses whose duties are purely the nursing of the sick. These Institutions are the Parish Nurse Charity and the Wrexham District Nursing Association.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASE. There are no arrangements, either voluntary or official for the nursing of cases of Infectious Disease in the home, but arrangements could be made by the Council if necessity arose.

Midwives.

There are 15 midwives in the Borough, all of whom are practising Midwives and are under the control of the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The premises used for the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre are at No. 1, Grosvenor Road, assisted by the Voluntary Ladies' Committee of the Civic Guild of Help. Consists of weighing room, waiting room and consulting room.

Infant Welfare Clinics on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Ante-Natal Clinic 10 a.m. Wednesday, under Dr. Katharine Drinkwater.

Aural Clinic.

During the year an Aural Clinic was established for cases from the School Medical Service and also for Maternity and Child Welfare under the care of Mr. R. D. Aiyar, F.R.C.S., who is a specialist in oto-rhino-laryngology. Mr. Aiyar also operates on cases of chronic tonsillitis of children below 5 should the necessity arise in a matter of emergency. The Clinic is held fortnightly at No. 1, Grosvenor Road, from 2-30 to 4-30.

School Clinic.

Treatment provided for minor ailments, skin diseases, tonsils and adenoids, dental defects, including orthodontic treatment and defective vision. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Orthopaedic treatment in conjunction with the County Clinic at 16, Grosvenor Road.

Tuberculosis.

Consultation Clinic for Wrexham and District at Temple Row, in the Denbighshire and Flintshire Area of the Welsh National Memorial Association. Staffed by Tuberculosis Officer and an Assistant Tuberculosis Officer. Open for consultation on Mondays and Thursdays of each week.

Venereal Diseases.

The treatment and investigation of Venereal Diseases are under the control of the County Council. A Clinic is provided at the War Memorial Hospital on Mondays for Males, and Friday's for Females.

Hospital Accommodation.

GENERAL. (a) Wrexham War Memorial Hospital, 109 beds. Under Voluntary contribution.

(b) Croesnewydd Hospital, 103 beds. Under Public Assistance Committee.

TUBERCULOSIS. Beds available for Wrexham cases in the Sanatoria of the Welsh National Memorial Hospital at Talgarth Sanatorium (men), Llangwyfan Sanatorium (women and children and surgical) and at Meadowslea Hospital, Penyffordd.

FEVER. Wrexham Fever Hospital. Property of the Wrexham Rural District Council, Administered by Joint Committee, with Representatives of the Wrexham Rural District Council, Wrexham Borough, Llangollen Urban District Council, Ruthin Borough and Rural District Council, Overton Rural District Council, and Hiraethog Rural District Council, for all of which Authorities beds are allotted. On the basis of the Ministry of Health, the present accommodation is 91 adults including 11 Isolation Cubicles, together with an operating theatre which is necessary for any Hospital.

There are two private Nursing Homes in the Borough for maternity and other cases.

RUABON MATERNITY HOSPITAL. Complicated cases of confinements are sent to the Ruabon Maternity Hospital under the Denbighshire County Council and if any cases of puerperal sepsis should arise thereat the case is transferred to the Isolation Hospital where it is isolated in a cubicle.

Smallpox.

A Hospital for Smallpox Cases has been constructed by the Denbighshire County Council which is available for the Borough if the necessity arises.

Orthopaedic Cases.

At the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, supplemented by After-Care Treatment at the County Clinic, 16, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, staffed by personnel from the Orthopaedic Hospital aided by a strong band of voluntary helpers of local ladies.

Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

During the year 11 children were treated and paid 44 visits with a marked improvement.

Institutions.

Accommodation for convalescent or debilitated persons is provided for residents in Wrexham and District in the John Jones' Memorial Homes at Rhyl for adults and at Minera for adults and children.

The Public Assistance Committee have institutions for homeless children at Little Acton and in Benjamin Road.

There is also St. Giles' Home for Waifs and Strays (Church of England) for boys under 12 years of age.

Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, in the area—No Institution.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) **INFECTIOUS CASES.** Motor Ambulance attached to the Wrexham Fever Hospital.

(b) **NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.** Motor Ambulance attached to the St. John's Ambulance Association, Wrexham Branch.

The following report has been received from the Honorary Secretary of the Local Branch, to whom I am greatly indebted for the information :—

“During the year ended 31st December, 1937 :—

Total number of cases carried	..	..	..	1,213
Mileage run	..	..	..	11,174
Road Accidents	..	..	..	105
Mileage run	..	..	..	738
Number of cases where First Aid was rendered	..	..	..	366
Public functions attended	..	..	..	364
Total hours of duty given voluntary by men	..	..	..	11,651½.”

(c) Ambulances attached to certain collieries which are used for bringing cases of accident to the War Memorial Hospital.

(d) There is no special Ambulance for Maternity cases, and, if necessary, the St. John's Ambulance would be available.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

(1) The Medical Officer of Health also undertakes duties of School Medical Officer for the Borough and Medical Officer to the Child Welfare Centre. In addition to these appointments he is Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Act for the School Medical Service, Medical Officer of Health to Wrexham Rural District Council and Medical Superintendent of the Wrexham Joint Fever Hospital. As respects all these appointments the Medical Officer of Health is a full time official but is for each Authority a part time Official.

(2) Dr. Katharine Drinkwater acts as Assistant School Medical Officer to the Borough, and as Assistant Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, and as Medical Officer to the Ante Natal Clinic.

(3) (a) The Senior Sanitary Inspector is Mr. L. A. Stroud, who is a certified Meat Inspector, in place of Mr. Bates, who resigned his appointment on taking up a similar post in Hitchin.

(b) Mr. J. G. Wilkes, Sanitary Inspector, who also is a Certified Meat Inspector.

(4) (a) The Health Visitor, Mrs. Moore, possesses the Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Her duties as Health Visitor occupy the whole of her time.

(b) Nurse M. Lloyd Jones acts as a Health Visitor and School Nurse.

(5) Mr. Ross Wallis acts as Dentist to the School Medical Service and his appointment is a part time appointment, also as Dentist for Ante-Natal cases if the health of the expectant mother is prejudiced by sepsis.

(6) Nurse L. Griffiths occupies the position of School Nurse.

(7) (a) Miss B. Probert, whose duties are divided between the Health Department and School Medical Service altogether making a full time appointment, taking the place of Miss Kirby who was transferred to the Town Clerk's Department.

(b) John Morris, Junior Clerk in the Health Department.

(c) Herbert Roberts, Temporary Clerk for the Housing Act, 1930—36.

(8) Mr. J. Cane, M.R.C.V.S., acts as Veterinary Inspector to the Market and is under the supervision of the Markets Committee.

(9) Mr. Bernard Jones, pupil to Mr. Stroud.

(10) Mr. S. F. S. James, pupil in the Health Department.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

A very successful Health Exhibition was held in March and is referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I received the following table of attendances from the Organiser of the Central Council for Health Education who appeared to be thoroughly pleased with the arrangements and the results of the Health Week.

		<i>Schools.</i>	<i>Exhibition.</i>	<i>Lecture Hall.</i>	<i>Outside Meetings.</i>	<i>Daily Total.</i>
March 17th	.. ..		1887	267		2154
March 18th	.. ..	300	1311	564		2175
March 19th	.. ..	275	866	430		1571
March 20th	.. ..		720	580		1300
March 22nd	.. ..	80	790	270		1140
March 23rd	.. ..	298	1000	468		1766
March 24th	.. ..	275	1260	324		1859
TOTAL	.. ..	1,228	7,834	2,903	143	12,108

The only criticism that one could raise was the fact that the addresses at the Church House were in a separate building to that of the Exhibition and no doubt had both the Exhibition and the addresses been in the same building it may have improved the attendance over and above the satisfactory figure arrived at.

CHEMICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL WORK.

The chemical and bacteriological analyses of water, together with the examination of blood for the Widal test for typhoid, are undertaken by the Clinical Research Association, London, whose reports are included in my routine Monthly Reports.

The chemical and bacteriological analyses of milk are undertaken by the University of North Wales, Bangor, and Dr. Grace of Chester, who have also examined milk to detect the presence or absence of tubercle bacillus, and in more than one instance the report was positive.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Number of Mothers with Babies attending the Maternity Centre	437	477	500	714	749	830
Total attendance of Mothers with Babies ..	6271	6316	7207	8710	8117	9044
Average Sessional Attendance (per baby) ..	14.3	13.2	14.4	12.5	10.8	8.3
Average Sessional Attendance	62	63.1	71.3	87.09	81.17	90.44
Number of Medical Consultations	791	915	1132	1219	846	1033
Ante Natal Cases	25	68	82	97	91	111
Ante Natal Attendances	74	208	231	331	384	566

The above table indicates that 830 Mothers and Babies attended the Clinic during the year. This is an increase of 81, as compared with 1936, and is also the highest number on record.

The above table indicates very evidently the progressive increase there is in the work at the Centre.

The total attendance of Mothers and Babies amounted to 9,044, which is an increase of 927 over the figures for 1936, and is also a record. Of the children attending the Centre, 413 were at the end of the year, under 1 year of age, and 417 between the years of 1 and 5. The number of children under 1 increased by 2, whereas those between 1 and 5 have increased by 79.

The average attendance per baby was 8.3, as compared with 10.8 in 1936. The average sessional attendance was 90.44, as compared with 81.17 in 1936, but the number of babies attending many individual sessions was well over the hundred mark, and this especially occurs on a Wednesday afternoon. At the same time, I need hardly repeat the statement that the attendance at the Centre is influenced to a certain extent by climatic conditions, and a very wet afternoon is accompanied by a much lower sessional attendance than normal.

These figures indicate that especially on a Wednesday afternoon, there is definite overcrowding in the Centre, and this has been discussed during the year, and arrangements are now under discussions whereby the room now used by my clerk and myself, is to be converted into the Waiting Room with a communicating door with the Weighing Room, thus once the Mothers have become accustomed to the proposed new arrangements there will be a steady unidirectional flow through the main room, and this will undoubtedly simplify the work of the Health Visitors, and Voluntary Helpers.

Of the total attendances at the Centre, 6,562 were in respect to children under the age of 1 year, whereas 2,482 were in respect to children between the ages of 1 and 5, and of the children under 1 year of age, 356 attended for the first time, whereas of the children over 1 year of age, only 61 of these had not been previously attended. The children who attended under the age of 1 made an average of 15.9 attendances, whereas those over the age of 1 paid an average of 5.9 attendances, so that the lowered average during the year for all babies, can be explained by the low average for children over the age of 1.

The Medical Consultations amounted to 1,003, or an increase of 187 during the year.

With reference to Ante-Natal cases, 111 women attended, or an increase of 20 during the year, and these made 566 attendances, as compared with 384, this being an increase of 182. In addition to this, 50 Mothers attended as Post-Natal cases. Undoubtedly a large amount of work is being done at the Ante-natal Centre, especially in reference to the general hygienic conditions of pregnancy, and the provision of extra nourishment, including milk and vitamin preparations, and it is satisfactory to note that there have been no Puerperal deaths during the year.

One important feature of the Maternity Centre is the arrangement for the supply of milk at cheap rates through the Chemists, and also the gratuitously supply of milk through the Centre. During the year 1937 a change in the milk Vendor was made, with a view of supplying T.T. Milk which is purchased at a Wynnstay Farm of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, but unfortunately we received many complaints during the year in reference to the delivery of milk, though the Vendor was allowed to continue until the completion of his year of contract.

The amount of milk supplied free of charge is as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Dried Milk	..	1,814 lbs.	..	155	1 5
T.T. Milk	..	4,733 gallons	..	483	2 5
TOTAL COST			..	<u>£638</u>	<u>3 10</u>

It is satisfactory to note that the gallons of milk increased by 523 over the figures for 1935, but the Dried Milk figures have decreased by 33 lbs. The total cost of milk during the year was £638/3/10, or a reduction of £34/15/0. All cases requiring free milk are dealt with individually and all new cases are reported to the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee, who give the necessary instructions.

It has to be borne in mind that many children under the age of 5 attend the Elementary Schools, especially the Nursery Classes, and thus become eligible for free meals and free milk in the Schools, and this is especially the case in the Institute at Spring Lodge, which caters primarily for the children living in the Spring Lodge and Maesydre Estates, and the immediate neighbourhood.

One would like to appreciate the arrangements made by the Maternity Sub-Committee for the Annual Tea to Mothers and Babies, and this function is always well attended and is very much appreciated by the Mothers attending the Centre as well as giving them an added interest in Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

The successful administration of the Maternity Centre could not be carried out without the help of Voluntary workers in addition to the Health Visitor, and the Medical Staff and one cannot forget the help given by the Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

Cases of complicated confinements are admitted by arrangement to the County Maternity Hospital at Ruabon, to which Institute 9 Patients were admitted during the year.

During the year discussions took place in reference to the arrangements as to Maternity cases at Ruabon, but it was felt that no alterations could take place until the County Council had provided a new modern Maternity Hospital, which is to be constructed at Minera, 4 miles away from Wrexham. When this Hospital has been built it is to be hoped that amicable arrangements will be made between the Borough and the County Council in respect to satisfactory arrangements being made, especially on the financial cost.

Number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitor.

(a) To expectant mothers	..	..	..	First visits	..	92
				Total visits	..	292
(b) To children under 1 year of age	..	..		First visits	..	427
				Total visits	..	2849
To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years..				Total visits	..	1831
Total visits	..	..	..			5006

Number of Babies Registered with Medical Officer of Health.

Number of Babies notified to Medical Officer of Health	..	..	..	..	477
Males	..	..	..	..	254
Females	..	..	..	..	223
Number of illegitimate babies	..	..	..	..	18
Number of Stillborns	..	..	..	..	23
Number of babies dying within a few hours	..	..	..	..	14
Number of deaths under 12 months	..	..	..	..	28
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	..	..	71.9

Health Visitor's Work at Homes and Centre.

Number of Breastfed Babies during 1st visit	..	..	..	..	404
Number of Bottled Babies during first visit	..	..	..	..	36
Number of Twins	..	..	..	..	1

Condition of Child.

Good	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	437
Bad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Indifferent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

Condition of Mother.

Good	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	438
Bad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Indifferent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

Cleanliness of Homes.

Clean	426
Fairly Clean	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Dirty	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Number of Infant Welfare Sessions at Centres 100

Number of Mothers in apartments or having lodgers in the house themselves and overcrowded houses for confinements 12

The Ward distribution of Infantile Mortality was :—

	G.	E.	F.	C.	M.	B.	O.	A.	W.D.	Total.
Number of Births (notified)	47	22	45	47	99	37	16	37	39	.. 389
Number of Infantile Deaths	1	3	5	2	7	4	2	4	—	.. 28

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

Arrangements for treatment and examination of children suffering from orthopaedic defects until they reach the age of 5 remain as in previous years. Such cases are referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic at 16, Grosvenor Road, where they are examined by the specialist personnel of the Robert Jones and Dame Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

During the year 47 cases of children under 5 years of age were treated. This included 6 cases of congenital deformities, and 12 of Flat Feet, 10 of Knock-knees, 5 Rickets and 14 other cases. Of these, 1 case of Rickets was cured. 7 cases refused treatment, and 7 cases reached the age of 5 and were transferred to the School Medical Service. At the end of December, 1937, 29 names were on the books, and the total number of attendances to the Orthopaedic Clinic of the children under 5, was 266.

Diagnosis.	Total Treatment.	Cured.	Improved.	Refused Treatment.	Left District.	On Books 31/12/37.
1. Spastic hemiplegia ..	—	..	—	..	—	..
2. Congenital Deformities	6	..	—	..	1	.. 5
3. Poliomyelitis ..	1	..	—	..	1	.. —
4. Flat Foot ..	12	..	—	..	2	.. 10
5. Knock Knees ..	10	..	—	..	2	.. 8
6. Rickets ..	5	.. 1	.. 1	..	—	.. 3
7. Spastic Paraplegia ..	1	..	—	..	—	.. 1
8. Erb's Palsy ..	3	..	—	.. 1	..	.. 2
9. Postural Defects ..	1	..	—	..	1	.. —
10. Perthes' Disease ..	1	..	—	..	—	.. 1
11. Others ..	7	.. 1	..	..	—	.. 6
TOTAL ..	47	.. 2	.. 2	.. 7	.. —	.. 36

Transferred to School Medical Service

Preventive Case—

Knock Knees .. .. .	..	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
Flat Foot .. .. .	..	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—
TOTAL .. .. .	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	—

On Books 1/1/37.	Admitted during 1937.	No. Treated during 1937.	Discharged during 1937.	On Books 31/12/37.	Attendance during 1937.
28	19	47	18	29	266

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The duties under this Act are performed by the Health Visitor who keeps under observation any case of this nature. During the year 7 cases have been kept under observation and special visits paid.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply of the Schools are satisfactory, though occasionally it is necessary to attend to the Sanitary Conveniences which require attention.

The Health of the Scholars is under the administration of the School Medical Officer who makes an annual Report on the working of the School Medical Service.

In reference to the spread of Infectious disease every endeavour is made to carry out any methods for the prevention of spread. When any case of Diphtheria occurs in a house, the contacts, especially School Children, visit the Clinic with a view of examination of their throats, and if necessary the taking of swabs, which are examined at the Fever Hospital. Any such child showing signs of enlarged Tonsils or Adenoids, is referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, where they are examined by Mr. Aiyar, and if it should be considered necessary, such cases are admitted to the War Memorial Hospital for the removal of any pathological condition in the Nose or Throat.

Periodical visits are paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to the various Departments, which, whenever necessary, are thoroughly disinfected.

Laboratory Work.

Facilities for bacteriological examination as follows :—

FEVER HOSPITAL LABORATORY.

For examination of throat swabs for Diphtheria.

WELSH NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

For examination of Sputa in Tuberculosis cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied from the Fever Hospital to Medical Practitioners on demand.

Work done at the Fever Hospital Laboratory, 1936.

			Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Throat Swabs submitted by Doctors	}				
" " of Contacts	}	.. ..	43	316	359

Number of articles disinfected at Fever Hospital during year—

23 Blankets	29 Pillows.
11 Bolsters	3 Rugs.
11 Bolster Cases.	2 Pyjamas.
6 Cushions.	1 Nightdress.
9 Mattresses.	9 Beds.
29 Pillow Cases.	

All patient's clothing is disinfected on discharge.

RAINFALL.

The following Table shows the rainfall throughout the year. Records taken by Mr. T. Owen Jones, Beechley Road, Wrexham, to whom I am greatly indebted.

January	..	..	..	3.07 inches.
February	..	..	..	4.37 "
March ..	..	..	..	2.16 "
April ..	..	..	..	2.17 "
May ..	..	..	..	2.02 "
June ..	..	..	..	1.19 "
July ..	..	..	..	1.65 "
August	..	..	..	2.54 "
September	..	..	..	1.15 "
October	..	..	..	3.35 "
November	..	..	..	1.61 "
December	..	..	..	3.01 "
TOTAL ..				28.29 "

The wettest month of the year was February, with 4.37 inches.

It rained on 150 days during the year, the wettest days being January 18th, with 0.71 inches ; October 23rd with 0.71 inches and December 2nd, with 0.70 inches.

Total snowfall for the year was 0.95 inches.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year 1 sample of water was taken, and as is usual, it was found to be of an extremely satisfactory state of purity. Reference was made in my last Report to the fact that the Company were taking steps to deal with the Water Supply, and during the year extensive new Works have been commenced at Pant Glas, on the Ruabon Mountain, where a dam is being erected and a tunnel constructed through a small Hill, in order to conserve Water and direct this to the large Reservoir at Ty Mawr. This Water so conserved comes from the Mountain by Mountain Lodge, and to a certain extent affects the Ruabon Water Company, though arrangements are being made that the Ruabon Water Company take what they require, and that any excess of that Company's requirements will be diverted into these Works, and so transferred to the Wrexham Works.

One need hardly repeat the fact that the Company have a most elaborate system of Water purification and that for many years the water has consistently shown a very high degree of purity. It may be pointed out that the Water Company are continually taking samples of water and that during my frequent interviews with the Staff of the Company, I see these Reports, which are always of a satisfactory nature.

Towards the latter three months of the year some concern arose owing to the effect of the drought, but though measures were taken with a view of conserving the supply of water, it is satisfactory to note that throughout the year we had an uninterrupted supply.

The Analyst's report is as follows :—

Public Supply.

Parts per
100,000

(1) Chemical.

Total solids (dried at 120°C.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.0
Combined chlorine (as Cl.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NaCl)				..	..	..	1.65
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.04
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Ammoniacal nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.0008
Albuminoid nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.0028
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.088
Lead or Copper	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Temporary hardness equivalent to CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.0
Permanent hardness ( " " " )	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.0
Total hardness ( " " " )	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.0

(2) Bacteriological.

The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates, incubated at 20°C. for three days is found to be 6 per c.c.

The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates, incubated at 37.5°C. for two days is found to be 2 per c.c.

B. coli	..	..	..	..	not found in	..	..	100 c.c.
Streptococci	..	..	..	..	not found in	..	..	30 c.c.
Cl. Welchii (spores)	..	..	..	..	not found in	..	..	100 c.c.

REMARKS.

The combined results show that this water is quite safe for drinking purposes.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Gwenfro passes through the town and previous to its entrance to the town it passes through important industrial areas where it has been liable to pollution from many sources, including the Collieries and a Coke Oven concern.

As far as the nature of the River is concerned, there is undoubtedly proof that the River entering the Borough is at the present moment in a very much purer state than has been the case for many years.

At the same time it has to be pointed out that during the course of the River through the Borough it provides a very suitable receptacle for unwanted articles, and this matter has been discussed in the Health Committee and steps are being taken to remove these articles.

In certain places the River is situated too close to the premises of inhabited Houses and also passes the local Gas Works, through which there is definite evidence of a certain amount of pollution from percolation of Gas liquor and steps are now being taken with the Gas Company, with a view of preventing this noxious form of pollution.

I need hardly state that the River is kept under constant supervision by the Health Officials.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

The Borough has a modern up-to-date sewerage system which conveys the sewage to Five Fords Farm, Marchwiel, where it is treated on modern scientific lines.

It has been necessary to extend the percolating filters and to construct new works with a view to effecting a more satisfactory purification, this includes humus tanks.

Towards the end of the year steps were taken with a view of modernising the sewers of the Borough, especially in relation to the portion of the Borough added in 1935, when the Borough was enlarged, and at the same time to discontinue the use of the obsolete sewage works at Erlas, which will only be used for the treatment of storm water overflows. With this end in view extensive new sewers are now being constructed and the major portion will join on to the present sewer at Park Avenue, whereas for other parts of the area, such as Rhosnessney and the rapidly developing Holt Road area, a new sewer is being constructed which will join on to the existing sewer in the region of Whitegate.

It is impossible to connect the whole Borough to the Marchwiel system, and the Northerly part of the Borough will continue to be sewered into the Pandy works, which require extensive improvement, thus saving the Borough the expense of constructing expensive pumping machinery, if the Pandy works were done away with.

SCAVENGING.

The arrangements for the collection and disposal of House refuse remain as in former years. The system consists of weekly collections by Motor Vehicles and its disposal by combustion at the Destructor in Willow Road, and the remainder is dealt with by controlled tipping in lands off Holt Road, between Spring Lodge, and the new Abattoirs, where a great improvement is made in the character which is thus being prepared for the establishment of a Community Centre for Physical Fitness and Playing Fields.

The collection and disposal in House refuse is under the control and supervision of the Borough Surveyor, and the question of the Ashpits is being discussed in the various Meetings of the Health Committee, with a view to their ultimate abolition.

During the year 10 Ashpits were abolished, and there are 315 Ashpits in the Borough, including 176 in the extended portions. I am informed that the weekly collections of Ashbins amounted to 7,000.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Practically all the houses in the Borough are connected up with the sewers by means of water carriage system but there are certain areas in town which are situated a long distance from any sewer and in these the necessary sanitary arrangements consist of privies, pails, and in certain cases, water carriage system connected to cesspools and septic tanks. There are 62

privies and pail closets in the Borough—a portion of these will be demolished in reference to demolition of unfit houses in Clearance Areas. The number of cesspools and septic tanks cannot be estimated at the present time seeing that in certain parts of the extended area extensive housing developments are taking place and that owing to the absence of a sewer septic tanks and cesspools have to be constructed.

HOUSING.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND COUNCIL HOUSES.

It will be noticed that this Table is divided into three, namely, infants under 5 ; school age from 5—14 ; and adults (over 14).

Scheme.			0—5 years.		5—14 years.		14 and over.		Total.
<i>Acton Park.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	1	..	1	..	2	
Diphtheria	..	—	..	5	..	2	..	7	
Pneumonia	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	4	
								— 13	
<i>Maesydre.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	1	..	2	..	3	
Diphtheria	..	4	..	5	..	4	..	13	
Pneumonia	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1	
								— 17	
<i>Spring Lodge.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	1	..	1	..	—	..	2	
Diphtheria	..	11	..	14	..	5	..	30	
Pneumonia	..	—	..	—	..	4	..	4	
								— 36	
<i>Hightown.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	
Diphtheria	..	1	..	1	..	—	..	2	
								— 2	
<i>Huntroyde.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1	
Diphtheria	..	—	..	5	..	—	..	5	
Pneumonia	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1	
								— 7	
<i>Rhosddu.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	
Diphtheria	..	—	..	—	..	3	..	3	
Pneumonia	..	—	..	—	..	1	..	1	
								— 4	
<i>Saxon Street.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	
								— —	
<i>Benjamin Road.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	1	..	—	..	1	
								— 1	
<i>Berse.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	
Diphtheria	..	—	..	1	..	1	..	2	
								— 2	
<i>Ashfield.</i>									
Scarlet Fever	..	—	..	—	..	—	..	—	
Diphtheria	..	1	..	4	..	—	..	5	
Pneumonia	..	1	..	—	..	—	..	1	
								— 6	
TOTALS	..	20	..	40	..	28	..	88	

During the year 132 Houses were constructed by private enterprise and 36 by the Local Authority, making a total of 168, which is an increase of 83 over the figures for 1936. Including these 36 new houses, there are 1,621 houses owned by the Council.

3 Houses were demolished during the year, and no work was undertaken under the Housing Act, of 1936, in that we were prevented from completing on programme of Slum Clearance or of commencing our abatement of overcrowding on a systematic scale, owing to the lack of alternative accommodation.

Discussions took place in reference to the purchase of land in the Westerly part of the area, but the negotiations for the possession of this land did not materialize. At the same time, negotiations were also in progress in reference to the compulsory purchase of the Hermitage Estate, and evidence was being prepared at the end of the year for a Government Enquiry, which was held in 1938.

Discussions also took place during the year as to the utilization of the Whitegate Estate, with a view of Houses being erected in 1938, to deal with the completion of Slum Clearance, and also the abatement of overcrowding.

The question of the redevelopment at Pentrefelin was also discussed, and proposals were brought forward for the purchase of certain properties in that area.

There has been a very substantial amount of private enterprise in various parts of the Borough, and especially in the Northerly end of the town, where a large Estate is rapidly reaching completion.

Building operations have also taken place in the Acton Ward, and also to a certain extent in the Maesydre Ward in the neighbourhood of Park Avenue.

VITAL STATISTICS ACCORDING TO WARDS.

		Acton	Brynyff'n	Caia	Erddig	Fechan	Grosy'or	Maesydre	Offa	Wat's Dyke	Total
Acreage	..	571	282	423	253	258	239	489	171	232	2918
Population	..	2413	2584	2311	2427	2843	3566	5094	2044	2188	25470
Live Births	..	37	37	47	22	45	47	99	16	39	389
Birth Rate	..	15.3	14.3	20.3	9.06	15.6	13.1	19.4	7.8	17.9	15.2
Deaths	..	33	54	35	41	48	36	69	26	17	359
Death Rate	..	13.6	20.9	15.1	16.8	16.9	10.1	13.5	12.7	7.7	14.09
Infantile Deaths	..	4	4	2	3	5	1	7	2	—	28
Infantile Mortality Rate		102.7	102.7	42.5	136.3	111.1	21.2	60.6	125.0	—	71.9
<i>Notifications :—</i>											
Diphtheria	..	14	16	15	14	61	21	10	15	11	177
Scarlet Fever	..	13	2	7	2	9	9	2	3	—	47
Enteric Fever	..	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Tuberculosis	..	2	3	4	2	12	7	4	5	1	40
Pneumonia	..	4	11	5	4	4	9	15	1	3	56

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Borough of Wrexham.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1937. A large portion of this work was carried out under the supervision of my predecessor, Mr. W. H. Bates, who resigned in October last to take up a similar appointment under the Hitchin U.D.C.

The records herewith, especially those detailed in tabular form, will give some idea of the general work accomplished by this Department during the year.

The Staff changes include the appointment in March 1937 of Mr. S. J. V. James, as Articled Pupil Sanitary Inspector.

I have considerable pleasure in expressing my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to Dr. T. P. Edwards for their help and consideration at all times, and to the willing co-operation of my Staff, who have given their full support in the ever increasing activities of a modern Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. STROUD, M.R.SAN. INST.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

[illegible]

**SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED IN PURSUANCE OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE CHIEF
SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

Table No. 3.

Houses :—

Roofs overhauled or repaired	45
Rain water gutters renewed or repaired	58
Rain water fallspouts renewed or repaired	49
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	26
External walls repaired	56
Means of lighting improved	5
Means of ventilation improved	21
Windows renewed or repaired	98
Firegrates renewed or repaired	60
Dampness remedied	43
Floors relaid or repaired	85
Skirting boards refixed or repaired	5
Internal walls replastered or repaired	178
Ceilings replastered or repaired	51
Walls and ceilings cleansed	76
Doors repaired	72
Sinks fixed or repaired	10
Sink waste-pipes trapped, renewed or repaired	18
Washing boilers renewed or repaired	11
Yard paving relaid or repaired	32
Yard drainage improved	5

Drainage :—

Drains reconstructed or repaired	3
Inspection chambers built	1
Gullies fixed	2
Drains cleansed	5

Water Closets :—

Roofs and Walls repaired	90
Pedestal basin fixed	17
W.C's repaired or cleansed	5
Flushing apparatus fixed or repaired	9
Provided with sufficient water supply	6

Ashpits :—

Repaired	3
Abolished	10
Portable ashbins provided	45

Common Lodging Houses :—

Cleansed and limewashed	14
---------------------------------	----

Houses-let-in-lodgings :—

Cleansed and limewashed	4
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

Dairies and Milk Shops :—

Cleansed and limewashed	30
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Cowsheds :—

Cleansed and limewashed	42
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Fried Fish Shops :—

Cleansed	15
----------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Offensive Trades :—

Cleansed and limewashed	12
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Factories and Workshops :—

Cleansed and limewashed	8
-------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

Infectious Diseases :—

Rooms disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	672
Books and other articles disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Articles destroyed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**(a) Common Lodging Houses.**

There are seven common lodging houses affording accommodation for 58 persons in 29 rooms, including one house used for accommodating married couples. Conditions are not too satisfactory, the premises mainly lacking in means of escape in the case of fire, the provision of sanitary accommodation, facilities for the personal ablutions and provision for the storage of personal effects.

The premises are all kept under close supervision, being visited at all times of the day and night. Revised bye-laws for controlling this class of premises are being submitted to the Ministry of Health for Confirmation.

(b) Houses-let-in-Lodgings.

Conditions generally are reasonably satisfactory, but supervision is difficult in this class of premises with the type of tenant so often found in occupation. Consideration has been given by the Health Committee to the possibilities of establishing a Municipal Lodging House in Wrexham. It is anticipated that bye-laws with respect to Houses-let-in-Lodgings will shortly be adopted by the Council.

(c) Cellar Dwellings.

As far as can be ascertained there are no cellar basement dwellings in Wrexham, used for human habitation.

(d) **Tents, Vans and Sheds.**

Few complaints were received during the year regarding moveable dwellings. Caravans coming into the Borough are inspected as occasion arises—95 inspections of these vehicles were made.

(e) **Offensive Trades — including Fish Fryers.**

The following are the “Offensive Trades” carried on in the Borough, *viz.* :—

- (a) 2 tripe dressers.
- (b) 2 leather dressers.
- (c) 2 Rag and Bone dealers ; and
- (d) 27 Fish Fryers.

During the year one application was received for consent to establish the trade of fish frying, but was refused.

Only one complaint was made, this being with regard to a nuisance arising at a Marine Store, and was satisfactorily remedied by informal action.

These premises, which are controlled by bye-laws, are subject to frequent inspections, a total of 108 visits having been made during the year. Special attention is given to fish frying premises, with regard to the cleanliness of the ranges and utensils and the wholesomeness of the food supplied. The distribution of fish frying premises over the area of the Borough is reasonably satisfactory.

(f) **Slaughterhouses (Private).**

There are five private slaughterhouses of which two are registered and three are licensed premises. They are all maintained in a satisfactory condition and the cleansing is carried out regularly. During the year 1,809 visits were made for meat inspection purposes.

(g) **Slaughterhouses (Public Abattoir).**

The Public Abattoir is working satisfactorily, the number of butchers who now regularly slaughter at these premises being 20. It is hoped that more advantage will be taken of these modern premises, with up-to-date equipment and hygienic conditions for the slaughtering and dressing of animals.

During the year consideration was given by the Health Committee to the installation of a public cold-store at the Abattoir, but this scheme has not been proceeded with owing to lack of support from the Meat Traders of the town, many of whom, already possess their own private cold-stores.

The provision of additional pig lairage is being proceeded with.

Two deputations from Guildford and Penrith visited the Abattoir, which is under the supervision of your Chief Sanitary Inspector who is the Superintendent.

During the year 895 visits were made for meat inspection purposes.

MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st March, 1937.**Table No. 4.**

EXPENDITURE.				INCOME.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Water	68	12	6	Rent of Croft	1	0	0
Rates, Taxes, Tithe and Insurance	68	2	5	Disused Slaughterhouses, Rents	31	4	0
General Repairs and Sundries ..	148	2	11	Tolls	610	7	4
Wages and Haulage	593	19	4	Repayments for Water used	6	7	5
Superannuation Contributions ..	11	14	0	Repayment for Lighting ..	7	0	0
Lighting and Fuel	121	14	8	Sale of Condemned Meat ..	56	5	5
Salaries Account	5	0	0	Sale of Electrolethaler ..	15	17	6
Telephone	6	6	2	Sundries	3	0	3
Printing, etc.	6	3	5				
Disused Slaughterhouses	15	7	11				
					731	1	11
<i>Loan Charges :—</i>							
Interest	297	17	7				
Sinking Fund	181	17	0				
	479	14	7	(Deficit)	793	16	0
	£1524	17	11		£1524	17	11

(h) Places where Animals are kept.

There are very few stables in this town, these gradually diminishing in number. Very little nuisance has been experienced from the keeping of horses, swine or poultry.

The number of visits made during the year was 54.

HOUSE DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

Two hundred and fifty-eight visits were made in supervising the provision of proper drainage systems, or the amending or repairing of existing drains of dwelling houses and other premises.

All drains are subjected to a hydraulic test both before the ground is filled in and upon completion. There were 51 water tests and 136 smoke tests applied to drains, soil pipes and ventilating pipes.

Twelve existing drains suspected by your Inspector of being defective were opened and examined, some of them being at the direction of the Health Committee.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Number of complaints of Smoke nuisances received	2
Number of observations made of Industrial chimneys	27
Number of nuisances observed	9
Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil.
Number of Intimation Notices served	5
Number of visits to works and interviews with Engineers and Owners	2
Approximate number of Industrial Chimneys in the Borough	21

As there is no atmospheric pollution gauge in the district, no comparative statistics are available as to the extent of atmospheric pollution in the Borough.

During the year the provision of the Public Health Act, 1875, relating to smoke nuisances and the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, have been consolidated by the Public Health Act, 1936, which came into force in October last.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings in respect of nuisances arising from smoke, but your Inspectors acted in an advisory capacity in relation to methods of stoking and management of plant, for the prevention or abatement of excessive emissions of smoke, especially in connection with breweries and brickworks.

Little or no nuisance has been experienced from the emission of grit or dust, but a complaint of a nuisance arising from fumes from a factory chimney was investigated and satisfactorily remedied.

The emission of black smoke from industrial chimneys could be more effectively dealt with by the adoption of a bye-law to regulate the emission of such smoke.

The increasing use of gas and electricity for heating and domestic purposes is undoubtedly a step towards solving the domestic smoke problem.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

There are no manufacturerers of rag flock in the Borough and it is found that very few firms use rag flock in upholstery and furniture manufacture.

In most cases it is purchased from manufacturers who guarantee it to conform to the requirements of the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912. There were no contraventions observed, and no samples were taken during the year.

RIVER POLLUTION.

Frequent visits have been made to the River Gwenfro and to points in the Borough at which effluent is discharged. It would appear that the greater amount of pollution takes place previous to the stream reaching this area. The matter of previous pollution has been taken up with an adjoining authority who have co-operated at all times.

Two samples were taken during the year.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 224 investigations were carried out in respect of notifications of Infectious Disease. 672 rooms and 110 articles were disinfected and 7 articles destroyed.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Fifteen complaints were received of infestation of dwelling house by bed bugs, three being in respect of Council houses. Each case was investigated and disinfection by fumigation with specially prepared sulphur compound was carried out by the Department with satisfactory results.

Eleven Council Houses at Stansty used for the temporary rehousing of families from Florence Street houses during the execution of the reconditioning scheme were also fumigated before being again occupied. Where evidence of bug infestation is evident the furniture of persons being rehoused is effectively treated by spraying with an insecticide while in the removal vans and the tenants are encouraged to immediately report any further infestation.

Seventy-three Corporation owned houses were inspected upon becoming vacant for the purpose of investigating any bug infestation.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There were no inspections carried out during the year under the Ministry of Health Circular Letter of 1920.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Owing to the large amount of work in hand it has not been possible to inspect the shops of the Borough under Section 10 of the Act, which with certain exceptions, relates to the provision in every shop in which persons are employed, of suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, of maintaining a reasonable temperature, sufficient sanitary conveniences, means of lighting, washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals. This is a matter that will entail a survey of all the shops in the Borough and should receive early attention.

Your Chief Inspector is appointed Officer under the Shops Act, 1912 to 1937, but is only responsible for the administration of Section 10 of the Act of 1934.

MOSQUITOES.

Twenty-five ponds within the Borough were sprayed by the Department with "Rent-okil " mosquito oil with the object of destroying the mosquito and its larvae. No complaints of mosquitoes were received.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

No systematic house-to-house inspection under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 was attempted during the year under review.

15 Demolition Orders were made by the Council in pursuance of Section 11 of the Act relating to individual unfit houses which are incapable of being made fit at a reasonable cost.

The Corporation Slum Clearance Programme is not by any means completed and it is anticipated that over 100 unfit houses will be dealt with under Parts 2 and 3 of the Act during the forthcoming year.

There were 131 inspections of dwelling houses made under the Act in respect of which 98 Notices were served requiring the remedying of 979 defects.

Reconditioning of dwelling houses suitable for occupation by the working classes continued steadily, there being a total of 160 houses made fit in consequence of formal and informal notices being served, and the co-operation of the Owners generally being shown by the fact that 92% of the work was executed as a result of informal action.

Considerable time is often spent by your Sanitary Inspectors with Owners and Builders, by acting in an advisory capacity for the satisfactory execution of work of a reasonably high standard.

146 visits were made to the homes of prospective tenants of Council owned houses to ensure that conditions were satisfactory.

REHOUSING.

Thirty-five families were rehoused by the Corporation in respect of houses subject to Demolition, Undertakings and Reconditioning and Overcrowding.

The following tabular statement is supplied at the request of the Minister of Health :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	232
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	251
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (incl. under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	36
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (excl. of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	196

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices :—

		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers	144
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A.—	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	110
(2)		Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	by Owners	77
	(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	—
B.—	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>		
(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	86
(2)		Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a)	by Owners	13
	(b)	by Local Authority in default of Owners	—
C.—	<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(2)		Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
D.—	<i>Proceedings under Section 22, Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1)		Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2)		Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding.

A.—	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	174
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	217
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	(over 10—1,092) (under 10—234)
B.—		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	8
C.—	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	18
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	104

**HOUSES DEEMED UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION.
PARTICULARS OF ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

1. Demolition Orders (Section II).

19, Crescent Road ; 42, St. George's Crescent ; 1, Red Lion Cottages, King's Mills Road ; 20, 22, 24, 28 and 30 Brook Street ; 4 and 6, Penybryn.

2. Undertakings given by Owners.

7, St. George's Crescent ; 1, Owen's Court, St. George's Crescent ; 18 and 19, St. George's Crescent ; 7, Union Road ; Chevet Hey Cottage, Rhosddu.

3. Work executed by Owners in respect of Undertakings (Section 11).

7, St. George's Crescent ; 1, Owen's Court, St. George's Crescent.

4. Representations made in pursuance of Section 11 (Adjourned consideration).

40, Bridge Street ; 41, St. George's Crescent ; 7, Prospect Place, Penybryn ; 8 and 9, Tenter's Bank Pentrefelin ; 18, 19, 20 and 21, Barnfield ; 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, Willow Road.

5. Acquisition for Reconditioning by Local Authority.

(Nil).

6. Works completed on Acquired Houses by Local Authority.

Numbers 1 to 34, Florence Street. (34 houses converted into 23 houses).

7. Statement of Houses purchased by Local Authority and Reconditioned.

<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Purchase Price.</i>	<i>Cost of Reconditioning.</i>	<i>Total Cost.</i>
1 to 34, Florence Street.	£1,020.	£4,780.	£5,800.

Average Cost per completed House — £252/3/6.

OVERCROWDING OF DWELLING HOUSES.

There has been little change in the Overcrowding of dwelling houses in the Borough since last year. The number of inspections made during the year relative to overcrowding was 78.

An obligation is placed upon Local Authorities to supply the number of persons permitted to occupy houses suitable for occupation of the working classes. During the year 868 Certificates containing "Permitted Numbers" in respect of 5,545 dwelling houses were dispatched by the Department to Owners and Agents.

The position regarding the extent of overcrowding, which should shortly be reviewed, is as follows :—

Houses at which Overcrowding was abated by the Corporation rehousing families during 1937	.. .. .	15
Houses at which overcrowding was abated by the Tenant finding alternative accommodation	.. .. .	3
Houses at which overcrowding occurred during the year	.. .. .	8

Table No. 6.

Percentage of Overcrowding in Dwelling Houses.

		At Dec. 31st, 1936.	At Dec. 31st, 1937.
Privately Owned Houses	.. ..	2.79	2.60
Corporation Owned Houses	.. ..	3.42	3.36
All Houses in Borough	.. ..	2.94	2.78

Table No. 7.

Occupation of Overcrowded Houses — (Equivalent Numbers).

		At 31st Dec., 1936.	At 31st Dec., 1937.
By 5 Occupants or Under	.. ..	27	26
By 5½—7 Occupants	.. ..	100	93
By 7½—9 Occupants	.. ..	52	50
By 9½—11 Occupants	.. ..	4	4
By 11½—13 Occupants	.. ..	—	—
By 14½ Occupants	.. ..	1	1
TOTALS	.. ..	184	174

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.**MILK AND DAIRIES.**

The number of persons registered as wholesale purveyors of milk within the Borough is 17, and as retail purveyors—75, making a total of 92 as compared with 89 in 1936. There are 21 registered cowsheds with approximately 294 cows ; 30 dairies and bottled milk shops.

During the year three Dealers' Supplementary Licences were issued under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Bacteriological Examination of Designated and Non - Designated Milk.

During 1937 there were 51 samples of milk submitted by this Department for bacteriological examination, including samples of all milks sold under special designations. Of these, 21 samples were of milk produced within the Borough.

Summarised, the results were as follows :—

<i>Samples Taken :—</i>	<i>Results :—</i>
3—Tuberculin Tested Milk	3 complied with prescribed conditions.
16—Accredited Milk	15
	1 did not comply with prescribed conditions.
4—Pasteurised Milk	4 complied with prescribed conditions.
28—Non-Designated Milk	27 were reported to be satisfactory.
	1 was reported to be unsatisfactory.

Of the total samples submitted 3.92% were reported to be unsatisfactory as compared with 14.5% in 1936, and of the Designated Milks taken 4.3% were reported to be unsatisfactory as compared with none in 1936.

Two producers and one retailer were requested to appear before the Health Committee to give explanations in respect of unsatisfactory samples of milk. Further samples proved to be satisfactory.

Biological Testing of Milk for the presence of Living Tubercle Bacilli.

No samples were taken during the year.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM.

There are a number of premises at which ice-cream is manufactured or sold, including small shops. With a commodity such as ice cream which is so easily contaminated and is often manufactured in sculleries or other domestic parts of buildings, a similar standard is desirable as in the case of dairies. It is difficult to efficiently control this class of premises in the absence of local powers.

There were no samples of ice-cream taken for bacteriological examination.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The following tabular statement, submitted at the special request of the Ministry of Health, shows that 100 per cent of the animals slaughtered in the Borough of Wrexham at the Public Abattoir and Private Slaughterhouses were inspected. The total number of animals inspected was 25,632, of which 1,369 were found to be abnormal. A separate record of the number of Cows inspected is not available.

Table No. 8.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle.		Calves.		Sheep & Lambs.		Pigs.	
	Abatt.	P.S.Hs.	Abatt.	P.S.Hs.	Abatt.	P.S.Hs.	Abatt.	P.S.Hs.
Number Slaughtered	537	771	148	135	5821	5635	9416	3169
Number inspected	537	771	148	135	5821	5635	9416	3169
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned ..	2	1	1	—	—	1	2	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	4	21	—	—	8	43	227	78
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	2.14%		.35%		.45%		2.55%	
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>								
Whole carcasses condemned ..	5	4	—	1	—	—	10	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	13	22	—	—	—	—	662	234
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.36%		35%		Nil.		7.27%	

Table No. 9.

Carcases or Parts of Carcases condemned as Unfit for Human Food.

Species.	T.B.	Casualty.	Parasitic Diseases.	Bacterial Diseases.	Moribund.	Abnormal Patholog. Conditions	TOTAL.
Cattle ..	8	—	—	1	—	5	14
Pigs ..	23	1	—	2	—	7	33
Sheep ..	-	—	—	—	1	—	1
Calves ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
TOTALS	32	1	—	4	1	12	50

Table No. 10.

Various Organs condemned as Unfit for Human Food.

		Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Kidneys	Spleens	Mesenterics	Intestines
Tuberculosis	Bovine	4	59	15	11	8	8	8	8	9
	Pigs	908	644	491	396	19	23	23	29	19
	Calves	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Inflammatory Conditions	Bovine	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	1
	Sheep	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Calves	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Pigs	1	306	256	158	2	2	2	2	2
Bacterial Diseases.	Bovine	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
	Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Pigs	11	14	12	12	2	2	2	2	2
	Calves	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Diseases. ..	Bovine	—	1	—	17	—	1	—	—	—
	Sheep	—	10	—	51	—	—	—	—	—
	Pigs	—	6	6	17	—	7	—	—	—
	Calves	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abnormal Pathological Conditions.	Bovine	1	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
	Sheep	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
	Pigs	—	6	6	21	—	—	—	—	—
	Calves	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS ..		929	1059	793	703	36	48	42	46	37

UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

The total amount of meat and other foods deemed to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered as shown by the following tables was 15 tons 19cwt. 1qr. 4. lbs. It was not found necessary to make any formal seizures of unsound food.

The whole of the diseased meat and offal was disposed of for treatment for the recovery of fats, etc., for commercial purposes, the price obtained, less costs incidental to such disposal, being returned to the Butcher. The remainder of the unsound food was destroyed at the Corporation Destructor.

Table No. 11.

Total Weights of Carcases, Parts of Carcases and Organs.

	Tuberculosis.			Other Diseases.		
	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Carcases or Parts of Carcases ..	225	3	1	16	1	22
Organs	34	3	3	24	1	23
TOTALS	260	2	4	40	3	17

Table No. 12.

Canned Foods, Fish, Fruit, etc., Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Corned Beef	—	2	10
Chilled Beef	1	2	16
Fish Fillets	1	2	18
Tongue	—	—	12
Brisket of Beef	—	—	7
Veal	—	—	12
Pressed Beef	—	—	10
Ham	—	—	8
Kippers	—	2	14
20 Boxes of Pears	7	2	0
4 Cases of Apples	1	2	0
Black Grapes	—	2	16
Miscellaneous	3	1	0
TOTAL WEIGHT	17	3	11

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

This Act provides for the humane slaughtering of animals by mechanical or electrical means, and for the licensing of slaughtermen.

Electrical stunning apparatus is installed at the Abattoir and at two Private Slaughter-houses for the stunning of calves, sheep and pigs.

Slaughtermen's licences are granted for periods of three years duration. There are 18 licences in force issued by the Corporation.

No contraventions of the act were reported during 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Two contraventions of the Regulations were observed and dealt with by informal action.

On the whole the quality and condition of the meat slaughtered in the Borough is of exceedingly good quality.

There are 10 premises to which meat is brought from sources outside the Borough.

The inspection of meat at the Public Abattoir and Private Slaughterhouses is carried out by your Inspectors at all times of the day and evening, the object being to inspect all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption. This demands many extra hours of duty throughout the year.

It is with pleasure that I record the co-operation of Meat Traders of this Town, which greatly facilitated the carrying out of the Regulations and your Inspectors' work.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

During the year 6 cattle were brought into the Abattoir by the Denbighshire County Council for slaughter under this Order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

RETAIL MARKETS.

There are three covered retail markets in the Borough, *viz.*, the Butchers', General, and Vegetable Markets in which meat, fish, greengrocery and other perishable commodities are sold. Frequent inspection is made and conditions have been found to be reasonably satisfactory.

STREET VENDORS OF FOOD.

There are a number of persons who hawk from vehicles, perishable foodstuffs for sale for the food of man, and it is intended, if possible, to visit the storage premises, during the forthcoming year, and investigate the conditions under which such foodstuffs are kept.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF PREPARED FOODS.

During the year 110 inspections were made to premises and shops of all descriptions used for the sale of preserved, cooked, and other foodstuffs. Much time could be given to this class of premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

This Act is administered in the Borough principally by the Denbighshire County Council, but your Chief Sanitary Inspector is also appointed Food and Drugs Sampling Officer for the purpose of acting under certain circumstances.

I am indebted to Mr. D. Wynne Griffith, Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the following information concerning the operation of the Act during 1937. The proportion of samples per 1,000 of the population is 2.26.

Table No. 13.

Article.	Number Taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.	Observations.
Milk	32	29	3	{ 2 slightly below standard. 1 Prosecuted.
Pickles	1	1	—	
Tinned Salmon	1	1	—	Not fresh Cream.
Cheshire Cheese	1	1	—	
Butter	7	7	—	
Fresh Cream	3	3	—	
Cream Buns	2	—	2	
Sweets	1	1	—	
Sausage	1	1	—	
Tinned Fruit	1	1	—	
Brandy	1	1	—	
Fish Paste	1	1	—	
Lemon Cheese.. .. .	1	1	—	
Rice	1	1	—	
Suet	1	1	—	
Currants	1	1	—	
Brawn	1	1	—	
TOTALS.. .. .	57	52	5	

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

Eighty-eight inspections were made to factories and workshops including bakeshouses and one laundry. Conditions were found to be satisfactory at most of these premises.

One notice of occupation of a workshop was received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories to whom one report was forwarded. No action was taken regarding Outworkers carrying on work in unwholesome premises.

The following tables showing particulars of inspection and action are similar to those issued by the Home Office.

Report on the Administration of Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901 and 1917, in connection with Factories, Workplaces and Homework.

Table No. 14.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.			
Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written and Verbal Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	70	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	18	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	—	—	—
TOTALS	88	—	—

Table No. 15.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.				
Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts	—	—	—	—
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act	—	—	—	—
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouses (Sec.101)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921)				
TOTALS	6	6	—	—

Table No. 16.

Premises within the Borough which come under the Factory and Workshops Acts, Number 257, classified as follows :—

Bakehouses	29
Tailors and Costumiers	27
Boot and Shoe Repairers	22
Upholsterers, Cabinet Makers, etc.	9
Garages, Motor & Cycle Repairers	51
Watchmakers	12
Builders and Plumbers	23
Electricians	8
Laundries	4
Smiths and Metal Workers	9
Dressmakers and Milliners	16
Concrete Workers and Masons	3
Photographers	5
Kitchens and Restuarants	6
Miscellaneous	33

HEALTH WEEK, MARCH 17th—24th, 1937.

I have pleasure in recording that one of the special activities during the year was a successful Health Exhibition held during the week commencing March 17th, 1937.

One stand allotted to this Department, managed solely by my Staff, was devoted to three aspects of Public Health Administration, *viz.*, Housing, Disinfestation and Rats and their Destruction.

Several methods of exterminating rats were demonstrated and an outstanding feature of this section was a display of different species of rats and conditions under which they are found.

The Housing Section dealt with Slum Clearance, photographs of several Areas before demolition being exhibited, and a map showing the various Clearance Areas, together with rehousing plans for these areas.

The Disinfestation Section dealt with the bed-bug and its eradication, exhibits showing its life history being shown.

The unusual amount of interest taken in the exhibits gave ample proof that the Sanitary Inspector's Stand served a most useful purpose.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT.

No applications were received for Certificates under these Acts.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Four complaints of rat infestation were received by your Executive Officer during 1937, but no complaint regarding mice. There were 95 visits made in addition to the work of the outdoor assistant.

In each case of complaint investigations were made and fumigation with sulphur dioxide and the laying of "Red Squill" baits were carried out by the Department. Advice was also given to the Public as to the most suitable poisons to be used. In no instance was it necessary to serve a notice under the Act.

Special efforts were made during "National Rat Week" campaign in November by newspaper publicity, with the intention of encouraging the Public to co-operate in the destruction of this rodent. The work of investigation is, however, carried out systematically throughout the year.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION IN DEFAULT OF PROPERTY OWNERS.

In no case was it necessary to execute work in default of owners.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings during the year.

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